

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09509 051353Z

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4492

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP OVIP IN US

SUBJECT: SAMACHAR REPORT ON POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE

1. SEVERAL DELHI PAPERS ON JULY 3 CARRIED A SAMACHAR ITEM DETALINED WASHINGTON, JULY 2, REPORTING THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA IN OCTOBER. THE ARTICLE IMPLIES THAT THE VISIT WILL BE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT MEETING OF THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION, WHICH IT SAYS WILL BE HELD IN DELHI IN OCTOBER. SAMACHAR REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE ESTABLISHED "PERSONAL CONTACTS" DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN PARIS AND THAT WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE UNGA VAJPAYEE IS LIKELY TO SPEND A FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON. SAMACHAR INFERS THAT THE OCTOBER JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WILL HAVE "SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE" BECAUSE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT ALSO STATES THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MAY VISIT DELHI SHORTLY AND THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY ON A RESUMPTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO INDIA.

2. THE JULY 3 ISSUE OF THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" CARRIED A REPORT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, N.C. MENON, ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO THE SAMACHAR PIECE AND ENTITLED "NEW SURGE OF US INTEREST IN INDIA." NOTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT INDO-US CONTACTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS "HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, MENON WROTE THAT SECRETARY VANCE ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO VISIT INDIA DURING HIS AUGUST TRIP TO CHINA, BUT "IT WAS DECIDED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT INDIA RATED A SEPARATE TRIP AND MR. VANCE IS NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT INDIA TENTATIVELY IN OCTOBER", TO COINCIDE WITH A JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.

MENON ALSO NOTED THAT AS AN INDICATION OF THE
"MORE POSITIVE APPROACH" TOWARD INDIA ON CAPITOL
HILL, "CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLF OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAS PLANS TO TAKE THE ENTIRE ASIA
AND PACIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE YOHEADS FOR A VISIT TO
INDIA LATER THIS YEAR."

3. THUS FAR, NONE OF THE OTHER DELHI PAPERS HAS
CARRIED ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THEIR WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENTS, NOR HAS THE SAMACHAR ITEM EVINCED
ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT.GOHEEN

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